

**PART IV - SECTION M**

**EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- M.1 EVALUATION -- GENERAL
- M.2 OVERALL RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION CRITERIA AND  
BEST VALUE DETERMINATION
- M.3 EVALUATION CRITERIA
- M.4 FAR 52.217-5 EVALUATION OF OPTIONS (JULY 1990)

## SECTION M

### EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD

#### M.1 EVALUATION -- GENERAL

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the applicable Federal and Department of Energy acquisition policies and procedures. Award will be made to the responsible offeror, whose offer, conforming to this solicitation, is considered most advantageous to the Government, and provides the best value to the Government, considering the Evaluation Criteria in this Section M.

Any exceptions or deviations to the terms of the contract resulting from this solicitation will make the offer unacceptable for award without discussions. If an offeror proposes exceptions to the terms and conditions of the contract, the Government may make an award without discussions to another offeror that did not take exception to the terms and conditions of the contract.

The Government intends to evaluate proposals and award a contract without discussions with offerors (except clarifications as described in FAR 15.306(a)). Therefore, the offeror's initial proposal should contain the offeror's best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint. The Government reserves the right to conduct discussions if the Contracting Officer later determines them to be necessary.

#### M.2 OVERALL RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION CRITERIA AND BEST VALUE DETERMINATION

The Business Management and Technical Proposal will be point scored and has significantly greater importance than the Cost Proposal. However, if, after evaluation of proposals, two or more competing overall proposals are within the competitive range, evaluated probable cost to the Government may be the deciding factor for selection, depending on whether the most acceptable Business Management and Technical Proposal is determined to be worth the cost differential, if any. A low point score in one or more Business Management and Technical aspects may make a proposal unacceptable. The Cost Proposal, Phase-In Plan, and the Offer and Other Documents will not be numerically weighted; point scored, or adjectively rated, but will be considered in the overall evaluation.

### M.3 EVALUATION CRITERIA

#### A. Business Management and Technical Criteria:

Business management and technical aspects of the proposal will be evaluated to determine the offeror's understanding of the work and in accordance with the following criteria. Criteria 1, 2, and 3 are of equal importance and each is more important than Criteria 4 and 5. Criteria 4 and 5 are of equal importance.

Criterion 1: Management Approach. The likelihood that the offeror's approach toward providing the contracting services, its organizational plan and the authority and independence of the proposed Project Manager in relation to the Corporate Office, as well as the Project Manager's proposed interaction with the Department of Energy, will lead to effective and efficient performance, will be evaluated.

Criterion 2: Key Personnel. The availability and depth and breadth of qualifications, including education and experience, to carry out assigned duties and responsibilities, as well as the findings of any reference checks which are made, will be evaluated. If the Contracting Officer should determine that oral discussions are necessary, the capability and knowledge demonstrated by proposed key personnel at oral discussions will also be evaluated.

Criterion 3: Past Performance of the Offeror. Each offeror will be evaluated on the overall quality (timeliness, efficiency, cost, and contract management) of its performance under existing and prior contracts relating to the full range of activities described in Section C, Statement of Work. Past performance of the proposed prime contractor will be of significantly greater importance than that of the proposed subcontractor(s), if any.

Offers lacking relevant past performance history will receive a neutral rating for this criterion.

Criterion 4: Corporate Commitment. The adequacy of the nature and extent of the offeror's corporate commitment toward assuring excellence in contract performance will be evaluated.

Criterion 5: Human Resource Management. Suitability of the offeror's experience and approach toward assuring a competent and highly motivated

work force will be evaluated. The Human Resources Management Plan will be evaluated as well as plans for retention or replacement of incumbent personnel.

B. Cost Criteria:

The costs proposed will not be assigned numerical weights, point scored, or adjectively rated. The costs proposed will be evaluated to establish:

- (1) Reasonableness and appropriateness of cost.
- (2) Evaluated probable cost to the Government.

C. Phase-In Plan Criteria:

The Phase-In Plan will not be assigned a numerical weight, point scored, or adjectively rated. The plan will be evaluated for comprehensiveness and the likelihood of effectively accomplishing the transition with little or no adverse impact to ongoing operations.

D. Offer and Other Documents Proposal Criteria:

Offer and Other Documents aspects of the proposals will be evaluated to determine compliance with the solicitation.

M.4 FAR 52.217-5 EVALUATION OF OPTIONS (JULY 1990)

Except when it is determined in accordance with FAR 17.206(b) not to be in the Government's best interests, the Government will evaluate offers for award purposes by adding the total price for all options to the total price for the basic requirement. Evaluation of options will not obligate the Government to exercise the option(s).